

PREVENTION OF FIRE WASTE THE PROBLEM

SPEECH OF EX-CHIEF CROKER OF NEW YORK CITY AT CHICAGO WILL INTEREST MANY.

MAKE BUILDINGS SAFE

Law Should Not Allow Wood To Be Used In Structures At All, Says Experienced Fire Fighter.

The Governors of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio have proclaimed October 9th as Fire Prevention Day. The speech on the reduction of "fire waste," delivered by former Fire Chief Croker of New York City, before the International Municipal Congress and Exposition at Chicago, on Friday evening, September 29th, will be of interest to many in connection with the observance of this day.

Throughout these years I was steadily and irresistibly led to the conclusion that, while fire-fighting and fire-extinguishing organizations of our great modern cities had reached a high state of efficiency and were keeping well abreast of the demands made upon them, our citizens, as a rule, paid too little attention to the vital matter of fire prevention, of which I have always been a consistent advocate.

I will not make my remarks statistical. The figures are staggering as this indicates. The enormous fire waste of the United States varies from two hundred million to four hundred million dollars annually, and the vastly greater indirect losses that result, seriously affect our economic and civic progress. The loss of lives by fire is one that cannot be realized save by those unfortunate whose relatives and friends have been lost in many deplorable calamities. To be poetical, it is nothing more than the "slaughter of the innocents."

This utter destruction of more than a quarter of a billion of dollars in property in addition to the lives incalculable in money value, is not an act of God nor one of the inevitable chances of industry and commerce.

All that is necessary is to apply the test of comparison with other countries of like civilization. In round numbers, the per capita fire loss in the United States has been from \$2 to \$4 against 33 cents in the principal European countries. One of the conditions in these countries is that at operates to effect a lesser loss than here is the larger use of non-combustible materials due to the high cost of wood. Another reason is the intangible influence of their older civilization, which makes these people more careful of small savings in all their affairs and generally more careful and generally more cautious than we have yet become.

But allowing for these fundamental differences between the countries compared, it is yet apparent that the fire loss in the United States, which is between seven and eight times that of the greatest European country, is outrageously and criminally greater than it should be. It has been my observation that the large majority of fires arise from preventable causes. In fact every fire of consequence is preventable.

The subject of fire prevention is vastly more important than that of fire-fighting. When one conflagration has been checked or prevented you have accomplished little. The chances for repetition tomorrow are equally as great.

There is no life to better conditions you must have that "fireproof" is not "fireproof" as it is understood to the general public definition remains, but many crimes have been committed in its name. I know of no more abused word. I am sincere in the conviction that the government should make it a heavily punishable offense to apply the term to anything but an absolutely fireproof building.

There is but one principle to fireproof construction, be it either homes, hotels, office buildings, theatres, apartments, battlements, railway cars or what. To have fireproof buildings architects and owners must throw aside precedent and eliminate the use of combustible and semi-combustible materials in their construction.

If I had my way about it I would not permit a piece of wood, even the size of a lead pencil, to be used in the construction or finish of any building in the United States exceeding a ground area of 25x50 feet or three stories in height. If there was still an absolute necessity for its use, if it could not be replaced with steel, as it has been in many modern

buildings, it would then be well to attempt to conceive of something better. I am opposed to the use of wood in any form in fireproof buildings and the law ought not to permit its use. Wooden floors, wooden window-frames, doors and casings burn and help other things to burn; wooden trim and bases burn—everything that is made of wood burns and helps the fire to spread. Eliminate wood—remove the cause and you have precluded the possibility of fires.

We have no department of our government devoted to the matter of fire prevention. Our laws on the subject are not specialized to completely cover any particular building or business, although they could be made broad enough in their general application to go a great way toward solving the problem.

It is my firm conviction that the United States Government should establish a department, founded somewhat on the lines of the pure food law, for the purpose of establishing laboratories whose business it should be to test and classify various materials used throughout the construction of fireproof buildings in order that the public may be provided with a satisfactory and sane schedule of standards of known safety and which shall be accepted as such by all departments and authorities in this country, and the law or laws necessary to make these conditions possible should be enacted with the idea constantly in mind that the present so-called fireproof building is such only so far as its exterior is concerned and that legislation is needed and demanded by the public to insure adequate and proper protection to the lives of all persons who may be called upon to congregate in all buildings of a public or semi-public nature.

Under the majority of the present building codes so-called fireproof buildings are substantially fireproof in the sense that a conflagration rarely does serious injury to the building itself. The flames may rage from room to room and floor to floor; floors, doors, partitions and all interior fittings may char and be consumed; the contents may be destroyed throughout and some or many of the occupants lose their lives, but the four walls and framework, that is, the organic structure of the building, usually comes through the conflagration intact. It is the combustion of contents, not damage to the buildings themselves that makes fire losses in the United States so heavy, in proportion to the amount spent for new construction. The need, therefore, is not for ordinance requirements which will make the buildings more effectually "fireproof," but enactments which will protect the INMATES and CONTENTS of buildings by making it impossible for a fire once started to course virtually unchecked from room to room and floor to floor of a building whose walls are fireproof. In other words, DEATH PROOF and CONFLAGRATION-PROOF construction are necessary requirements for new compulsory legislation for "fireproof construction."

Another element of kindred significance that should be taken into account is the fact that under present day conditions of industrial employment and also very often under metropolitan conditions of residence in buildings housing large numbers of people, fire-escapes and means of exit cannot, as a practical matter, be provided which, in the face of flames which preclude the use of the elevators and perhaps also the stairways, will certainly afford to all the occupants of a modern building the means of immediate and safe descent on the street. Still less impossible is any saving or safeguarding of valuable contents of buildings through means of removing them to the street or adjacent buildings. Future construction must be so required that the starting of flames in one room of a building need not make imperative the instantaneous exit therefrom of all persons employed in the building, or even on the floor where the fire starts. Means of safety, for both persons and property, must be secured, in the building and even on the floor where the fire starts, by making impossible the instantaneous converting of elevator shafts and stairways into flues for the flames, and by making impossible the rapid spread of flames from room to room and floor to floor. Nothing could be more dangerous, more expensive, or more unnecessary, than the idea that the safety of workers in factory and loft-buildings can best be secured at all, by providing means of rapid exit to the street. The cost of the kind of fire-escapes and the additional stairways properly required, as well as the considerable space occupied by such devices, would make them almost prohibitive in expense even if practicable or effectual, which they could not be.

Even if, however, all the occupants could be got out safely and in time no reason appears why the contents should be left to the mercy of the flames coursing from room to room and floor to floor until checked by the activities of the firemen. Both persons and property should be afforded protection in the building, by making its construction really fireproof, that is death proof and conflagration-proof, thereby confining the flames to a limited area within which to burn themselves out, consuming only such contents as are not removed to safety behind doors and partitions as effectively fire-resisting as the walls themselves.

One great lesson which many recent fires in New York and elsewhere have taught is that no building is more fireproof than are its doors and windows, while the presence of wood in trim or casing anywhere lessens, to that extent, the fire resisting and fire-confining power of the structure. No matter if the walls are fully fireproof, doors of wooden construction permit the flames to sweep from room to room and floor to floor, instead of being confined to one room, as is possible in fireproof buildings in reality—not fireproof only in name.

How often it is true that hotels, theatres, apartment buildings and the like, are advertised as "fireproof throughout," only to have some fire disclose that the buildings were veritable "fire-traps," the fireproof construction of the walls, floors and even stairways making only more perfect flues for the rapid combustion of tinder-like doors, partitions, window-casings, trim and room-contents! Those who go into public hotels and halls at night should have protection and assurance that representations of fireproof construction are in reality well-founded.

Every building should have straight, broad stairways of fireproof construction. And every door and partition, no matter how small or how temporary, should be fireproof. Right here I want to say to you that by the term "fireproof" as applied by me to doors, partitions, and all other interior work of buildings, I do not mean slow burning, near-fireproof, or any of the other so-called makeshifts which are used in many instances.

One of the most notable fires in the history of New York City was the Singer building fire of last fall. Combustible material in a room on the twenty-sixth floor of that structure caught fire on the morning of September 29th, just one year ago and was a mass of flames before discovered. The incident conflagration was of course far above the height at which firemen could work effectively, and if the building had not been really fireproof the structure would have become a giant chimney through which the flames could have coursed and destroyed at will. This building, however, was completely equipped with hollow steel doors and trim throughout, so perfectly enameled and grained that even an expert in wood could only detect their true composition by sounding the trim with a metallic substance. The result was that the fire practically burned itself out in the room in which it started before the arrival of the fire department. Accordingly this fire was most notable, not for loss of life and property, the disastrous consequences for which fires are usually notable, but for the disastrous consequences which were prevented by complete fireproofing!

To me there is a fascination about steel interiors. It constantly emphasizes the absurdity of fire-fighting, for how can fires rage if they have nothing to feed upon? Before making this talk I again inspected one of the hollow steel doors from the Singer building fire which is on exhibition at this Congress. If every building was constructed in this manner and made absolutely fireproof the appropriations for the maintenance of fire departments could be greatly reduced.

Within the next year I expect to build a home. Some of my friends await the result with interest, expecting a freak. Quite the contrary. I am going to have it absolutely fireproof, without having to make excuses for using the term fireproof. It is going to be far more artistic than even the old tinderbox. I am not going to spend a fortune on it, either, for the slight additional expense incurred in eliminating wood will be comparatively insignificant and will prove a perpetual asset in the long run. Just to demonstrate that my fireproof ideas can be carried to homes I am going to fire my house as soon as it is completed and prove conclusively that it will not burn, simply because it cannot.

Fast Time on Test Train.

The Pennsylvania test train, which has been running for three weeks between Fort Wayne and Valparaiso, a distance of 114 miles, made the trip a few days ago in 85 minutes. This is said to be the fastest time ever made by a heavily loaded train. This train consists of the engine, tender and nine cars loaded with forty thousand pounds of railroad iron. It has a clear right of way through the cities, and when it makes speed tests through cities it seems something dangerous.

Juvenile Band No More.

After a successful existence of two and one-half years the Juvenile band has disbanded. Mrs. Behmer felt that she could not continue to devote her time to the work. She has shown a wonderful degree of interest and persistence in training the boys and the experience they have gained calls for their appreciation and gratitude. The community also realizes the sacrifice and labor which Mrs. Behmer's undertaking has involved.—Culver Citizen.

Another Indian Monument.

The dedication of the memorial shaft erected to the memory of Kokomo the great war chief of the Miami Indians, took place at Kokomo Thursday. It was a special holiday throughout the county and the city was thronged with visitors.

THIS YEAR'S FAIR WAS ONE BIG SUCCESS

ATTENDANCE IS ESTIMATED AT 8,000 PEOPLE WHO THRONGED GROUNDS TO SEE AND BE SEEN.

ARE GOOD MANAGERS

Showings of Stock, Vegetables, Grains Fruits and Other Things Nearly Equal To Former Years.

The estimate of the attendance at the Bourbon fair on Thursday was 8,000 people. While this is not a record breaker, it is up to the usual standard and the management is highly pleased.

Crowds of sight-seers from east and west poured into Bourbon on trains all the morning, and in the afternoon the fair grounds were a spectacle to behold. Buggies and autos lined the race track from one end to the other, the grand stand and bleachers' seats were filled, and inside the race course were more than a hundred autos.

A special train of fifteen coaches went from Plymouth, a total of 420 tickets being sold and a large number went by auto and buggy. From Warsaw fully as large a delegation came.

Exhibits Are Good.

Generally speaking the exhibits were good. The showings of hogs and sheep were few and not up to the standard, but the remainder of exhibitions were good. A splendid sight was made by the fruits, cakes, jellies, etc. A pumpkin weighing 130 pounds carried off the honors in the vegetable kingdom, though the beets, sweet potatoes, squashes, cabbages and others were big enough to make a howl about it. Corn showings were not so good. An exhibit from Alberta, Canada, tried to compete with Marshall county stuff, but didn't make much of a hit.

The horses were fine and were shown in a specially provided ring, fence which kept the spectators at a proper distance. Cattle exhibits were fair.

The Bourbon Fair Association keeps its buildings in good repair and every year sees some new improvements which add to the comfort of the visitors or the care of the stock or other exhibits. The Bourbon Fair is always a place for the meeting of old friends, and people come from all over this and Kosciusko counties as much to see each other as to see the fair.

A hundred tickets were sold Friday for the fair from Plymouth, and others, of course went by rig and auto.

James C. Dahlman, "Cowboy" Mayor of Omaha, "Throws the Lariat"

Mayor Jas. C. Dahlman started his career as a cowboy, and is at present Mayor of Omaha, and has the following record. Sheriff of Dawes Co., Neb., three terms; Mayor of Chadron, two terms; Democratic Nat's Committeeman, eight years; Mayor of Omaha, six years, and in 1910 Candidate for Governor of Nebraska. Writing to Foley & Co., Chicago, he says: "I have taken Foley Kidney Pills and they have given me a great deal of relief so I cheerfully recommend them." Yours truly, James C. Dahlman. For sale by Fred Wenzler.



WE CAN DETECT DAMAGE in any part of a carriage or wagon where a less skilled eye would see nothing wrong. And once we detect it we repair it thoroughly and promptly. We do not rely on your ignorance of the defect or gloss it over with a coat of paint. We do an honest job every time and charge an honest price for it. That's what you want!

RINGGEBERG & CULLISON Center Street.



YOU ARE GROWING YOUNGER MOTHER

BANISH THOSE GRAY HAIRS! Kill the Dandruff Germs—Stop Hair Falling

Thousands of mothers are looking younger.—Their gray hairs are gone. The natural color has come back, and with it a new growth of soft, glossy, luxuriant hair. Why should you look old before your time, when you can look years younger by using



WYETH'S SAGE AND SULPHUR HAIR REMEDY

Dandruff Cured Three applications removed all the dandruff and left my scalp clean, white and smooth. Wm. Crook, Rochester, N. Y.

Restores Gray Hair to Natural Color

If other "so-called" Restorers have failed, don't give up hope, but give WYETH'S SAGE AND SULPHUR HAIR REMEDY a trial. You run no risk. If it is not exactly as represented, your money will be refunded.

PROFIT BY OTHERS' EXPERIENCE

Gray Hair Restored

My hair was getting quite gray and falling out rapidly and I was troubled with a terrible itching of the scalp. My head was full of dandruff, which fell upon my clothes and kept me continually brushing it off. While on a visit to Rochester I heard of your Sage and Sulphur for the hair. I got a bottle and used it. A few applications relieved the itching, my hair stopped falling out and gradually came back to its natural color. It is now a nice dark brown color, soft, glossy and pliable. Several of my friends want to use it, and I want to know what you will charge me for six bottles of it.

MISS E. A. ROSS, Sharon, Mercer Co., Pa.

Grew Hair on a Bald Head

For two or three years my hair had been falling out and getting quite thin until the top of my head was entirely bald. About four months ago I commenced using Sage and Sulphur. The first bottle seemed to do some good, and I kept using it regularly until now I have used four bottles. The whole top of my head is fairly covered and keeps on coming in thicker. I shall keep on using it a while longer, as I notice a constant improvement.

STEPHEN BACON, Rochester, N. Y.

50c. and \$1.00 a Bottle—At all Druggists

If Your Druggist Does Not Keep It, Send Us the Price in Stamps, and We Will Send You a Large Bottle, Express Prepaid

Wyeth Chemical Company 74 CORTLAND STREET New York City, N. Y.

FREE A 25c Cake of Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Toilet Soap Free to anyone who will send us this advertisement with 10c in stamps to cover cost of wrapping and mailing the soap.

Special Agent, Fred Wenzler, Plymouth, Indiana

TROOPS TO FOIL LOOTERS

Governor McGovern Orders Two Companies to Black River Falls.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 9.—Governor McGovern ordered two militia companies to Black River Falls to protect property of several thousand victims of the flood there from looters. The companies ordered out are those of Mauston and Eau Claire.

Sheriff Meek telegraphed the governor for troops to protect the property of the victims. He said the sufferers had sufficient food for about three days.

TWO MORE BODIES FOUND

Eight Hundred Employees of Pennsylvania Car Shops Volunteer Service.

Austin, Pa., Oct. 9.—The recovery and identification of two additional bodies and the clearing up of considerable wreckage featured the flood situation. Out of a total of seventy-four believed to have perished, sixty-two have been taken from the ruins.

The action of 800 employees of the Renovo car shops of the Pennsylvania railroad who came here voluntarily from Williamsport, Pa., and assisted in removing the great piles of debris, was an unusual tribute.

RAILWAY STRIKE IS QUIET

Rioting Has Subsided and Conditions Are Nearly Normal.

Chicago, Oct. 9.—At the close of the first week of the strike of shop employees on the Hartman railroads and the Illinois Central conditions were reported to be nearly normal.

The rioting which marked the first few days of the strike at several points in the south has subsided, and the strikers are trying to interest associations of merchants and manufacturers to lend their aid to bring about an adjustment of the difficulty.

OHIO CONTRACTOR MURDERED

Body Found in House He Was Completing—Skull Crushed with Pipe.

Cleveland, O., Oct. 9.—The body of Dama Pejar, aged sixty-three, a wealthy carpenter contractor, was found in a house which he was completing on Clifton boulevard. His skull had been crushed with a section of water pipe.

There is no clew to the murder. His wallet, containing \$300, is missing. Royalist Leader Leaves Portugal.

London, Oct. 9.—A dispatch from Lisbon to the Express says that the royalist leader, Couceiro, fled to the coast and thence to Osh for South.

Don't trifle with a cold is good advice for prudent men and women. It may be vital in case of a child. There is nothing better than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for coughs and colds in children. It is safe and sure. For sale by All Dealers.

DOLL CRUSHED; MEN EXCITED

"Horrible Accident" on Street Car Track Proved to Be Joke.

Anderson, Ind., Oct. 9.—Mischievous boys cast a large doll under a street car here and the car wheels crushed a sawdust limb from the doll. A man thinking the doll was a baby, called for an ambulance. Calls brought two ambulances to the scene, but the man discovered the hoax and dropped the crushed doll to the pavement.

The first ambulance men to arrive promptly gathered up the doll and hauled it away although they discovered they also had been the victim of a prank by the boys. The street was filled with people when the ambulances dashed to the scene of the supposed accident.

Constitution to Supreme Court

Indianapolis, Oct. 9.—After Judge Remster of the circuit court had filed his conclusions of law and special findings of facts in the constitution case, the necessary formalities for taking an appeal from Judge Remster's recent decision, that the act for the proposed new state constitution is unconstitutional, were disposed of, and Judge Remster granted the petition of the attorneys for the defense for an appeal to the Indiana supreme court.

Dies of Fractured Skull

Gary, Ind., Oct. 9.—David Alex Sholtis, a machinist helper, fell a few feet and suffered a fractured skull while working in the machine shop of the Illinois Steel company's plant. He died soon afterward. Sholtis is the second workman to be killed in the Gary mills in a week.

Sidney Conger Is Dead

Indianapolis, Oct. 9.—Sidney Conger of Shelbyville, former oil inspector, one of the most widely known men in Indiana, and who had long figured in Republican politics, is dead in a local sanatorium. He had been suffering for more than a year from cancer of the throat.

\$600 for Loss of an Eye.

Anderson, Ind., Oct. 9.—For loss of an eye George Logan, colored, sued the Indiana Steel company of Muncie for \$10,000 damages. The case was brought here from the Madison circuit court and was called for trial. A compromise was effected by Logan receiving \$600.

Injunction Restrains Strikers.

New Orleans, Oct. 6.—On application of attorneys for the Southern Pacific Railroad company a temporary injunction was issued in the United States court restraining strikers and others from interfering with the affairs of the road.

Notice to Public

This is to notify the public that I have moved my office to my new building at 117 W. Garro street, where I will be pleased to see my patrons and others. Office is on the ground floor. H. A. Deeds. 1w

INDICTS WALL PAPER MEN

Cleveland Grand Jury Finds True Bills Against Nine.

Cleveland, O., Oct. 6.—Prominent wall paper jobbers and manufacturers in different sections of the country, constituting the so-called wall paper trust, were indicted by the federal grand jury on the charge of conspiring to restrain trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Attorneys for the indicted men, of whom there are nine, arranged with the government officials to have them appear here Saturday in answer to the indictments. The following were indicted: Jay B. Pearce, president of the Jobbers' association, Cleveland; C. C. Allen, Columbus, O.; Morton Newcomb, St. Louis; Charles E. Maxwell, Chicago and New York, W. A. Huppach, Hudson Falls, N. Y.; George Tait, Glens Falls, N. Y.; Robert F. Hobbs, Hoboken, N. J.; John McCoy, York, Pa.

Child Playing Hangs Self.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 6.—The two-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Hahon of this city met death by hanging when she placed the noose of a small rope attached to the clothes line about her neck.

Six Beat Marshal to Death.

Muskogee, Okla., Oct. 6.—T. J. Kirk, city marshal of Marble City, Okla., was beaten to death with clubs by six men who are now in jail. It is said the men were drinking, when Kirk remonstrated with them.

Prison Tunnel Discovered.

Danmora, N. Y., Oct. 6.—The officials at Clinton prison have discovered a tunnel under the laundry excavated half-way to a sewer, through which it was planned to make a prison delivery.

HONOR POET RILEY

Pupils Observe Birthday Anniversary in Schools of Indiana.

Indianapolis, Ind., Oct. 7.—The first general observance of James Whitcomb Riley's birthday anniversary was held in every Indiana school, and in recognition of the honor the "Hoosier poet" issued greetings to his children friends.

Mr. Riley has kept the year of his birth a secret, but it is believed that

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only Constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 to 25 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circular and testimonials. F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists. Get Hall's Family Pills for constipation.